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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WILLITON
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1966.

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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report upon the health and sanitation of your district for the year 1966.

Apart from an epidemic of measles extending over the first three months of the year, notifications of infectious diseases have been very few and the general health of the population has been very good.

The work of the Public Health Department, vital statistics and general public health services, are dealt with under the following headings -

<u>Section A.</u>	Vital Statistics and Social Conditions
<u>Section B.</u>	Water Supplies, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal
<u>Section C.</u>	Housing
<u>Section D.</u>	Food Inspection and Supplies
<u>Section E.</u>	Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.
<u>Section F.</u>	Caravans and Camping
<u>Section G.</u>	Other Acts administered by the Department
<u>Section H.</u>	Summary of Inspections and Visits by Health Department Officers

Section A.

Vital Statistics & Social Conditions.

The steady improvement in general living conditions has been maintained. This applies particularly with regard to housing, having in mind the considerable progress made in re-housing of families from sub-standard accommodation and the improvement effected in existing dwellings by the aid of grants. Considerable further progress in drainage and sewerage throughout the district has accelerated this process.

In one respect, however, the district in common with many other South Western districts, falls very far short of present-day requirements. I refer to the inadequacy of existing roads. Very heavy increases in motor traffic, both commercial and private and the increasing attraction of the West Country as a holiday and tourist centre has highlighted this inadequacy.

Development of a residential character continues, but at a reduced rate, due mainly to scarcity and consequent high cost of building sites. The operation of the credit squeeze has had an adverse effect upon development of all kinds, both private and local authority.

Area	...	...	...	97,364 acres
Population (estimated mid-year home population)	...	...	...	13,500
Number of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	4,959
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£533,033
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£2,200

<u>Live Births</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	91	108	199
Illegitimate	...	6	7	13
		97	115	212

Birth Rate per thousand population ... 15.7

<u>Still Births</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	1	Nil	1
Illegitimate		Nil	Nil	Nil

<u>Deaths.</u>			<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
From all causes	...	...	96	94	190

Death Rate per thousand population ... 13.4

Health Services.

The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the Aged Sick at Williton, Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from Minehead and Musgrove Park. Part three accommodation at Croft House, Williton, for 40 persons, is fully occupied.

Notifiable Diseases.

Notified.

Smallpox	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	"
Diphtheria	...	"
Enteric Fever	...	"
Measles	...	53
Whooping Cough	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	"
Dysentery	...	1
Malaria	...	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	"
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	"
Erysipelas	...	1
Q.Fever	...	Nil
Food Poisoning	...	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	Nil
" (Other)	...	"

Section B.

Water Supplies.

The quality of most of the public mains supplies throughout the district was very satisfactory.

The extension of Clatworthy mains water to Carhampton village has obviated the possibility of shortages in both this and Withycombe villages thereby permitting housing development to proceed.

Supplies generally have been adequate throughout the year.

Results of analysis of samples from piped supplies are as follows -

Raw Water.

<u>Bacteriological.</u>	...	Satisfactory -	103	Unsatisfactory -	80
<u>Chemical.</u>	...	"	6	"	2

Treated Water.

<u>Bacteriological.</u>	...	"	240	"	15
<u>Chemical.</u>	...	"	15	"	2

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal is on five semi-controlled tips and all parishes are receiving regular collections. Williton, Porlock, Dunster and Stogursey are collected weekly, with fortnightly collections in other parishes with the exception of Oare, which receives fortnightly collections from May to October and monthly for the remainder of the year. The service is operating quite smoothly.

Sewage Disposal.

Sixteen parishes now have main drainage and efficient disposal systems. Schemes for the provision of adequate facilities in a number of villages and improvements to existing installations are temporarily suspended owing to Government-imposed financial restrictions.

Section C.

Housing.

There are now 4,959 permanent dwellings in the district, of which number 886 are owned by the Local Authority, with a further 18 Council Houses and 20 Private Enterprise houses in course of erection. The number of applicants for Council Houses amounts to 377 of which number, 66 are for Old People's dwellings and a further 91 can be considered as non-urgent.

There were 38 grant-aided schemes under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, completed during the year at an overall average cost per dwelling of £336. 10s. Of this total, 23 were made in respect of owner-occupied dwellings at an average cost of £305. Standard Grants approved totalled five, all of which were in respect of owner-occupied dwellings, at an average cost of £147 per dwelling. No cases of overcrowding have come to the notice of the department. One Demolition Order has been confirmed in respect of a cottage not repairable at reasonable expense.

Rent Act, 1957.

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Section D.

Food Inspection & Supplies.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	1730	5	109	8766	3816
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	3	13	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	333	1	10	568	314
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. or Cysticerci	9.2	20	11.9	6.6	8.3
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	.05	20	Nil	Nil	1.3
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Submitted to refrigeration	12	-	-	-	-
Totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of Meat condemned (Lbs)</u>					
(a) Tuberculosis	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	568
(b) Cysticercosis	696	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Other	4330	30	10	2704	2709
Total -	5056	30	10	2704	3277

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Slaughtering & Slaughterhouses.

Five licenced slaughterhouses are operating and 100% meat inspection has been maintained throughout the year. Informal action in respect of non-compliance with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, was necessary in two instances. Food Premises, Etc.

Food hygiene standards generally have been maintained at a fairly high level. Formal action for minor infringements under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, was necessary in twelve cases. Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

A case of Brucellosis Abortus was confirmed in a small dairy herd and appropriate action under the above Regulations was necessary.

Section E.

Complaints of various kinds received and dealt with by the department numbered 132. There were none of an unusual nature.

Section F.

Caravans & Camping.

There are 20 sites in your district licenced under the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, and 3 under the Public Health Act, Section 269.

The seasonal camper and caravanner, for whom very little provision is made, occupying as they frequently do, lay-byes and road verges are an increasing anxiety. The problem of lack of sanitary facilities especially, apart from that of litter, exemplifies the pressing need for the provision of additional accommodation of an approved standard for this type of holiday-maker.

Section G.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 50 factories, including five licenced slaughterhouses in the district. The majority of the others are of the light engineering type where machinery of some kind is in use, whilst some are of a temporary nature, such as building sites, etc. Outworkers resident in the district number 42, of which seven are employed by firms operating outside the district.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

There are at this time 74 premises registered under this Act, and 43 inspections and re-inspections have been carried out during the year, and 25 notices served.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

There are three premises licenced under the above Order for pig-keeping. This is a reduction of one on the previous year.

Swill is collected from Hospitals, School Canteens, Catering and Domestic premises, and boiling plant in use is, in all cases, of the solid fuel type and is quite satisfactory.

Generally installations are maintained in a satisfactory manner and regular inspections are carried out by the department's officers.

Representations were made in the case of one unsatisfactory plant and this has now ceased to operate.

Pet Animals Act.

Rag Flock Act.

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Owing to pressure of other work it has not been found possible to devote much time to inspection of agricultural premises in relation to the provisions of the above Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the course of the year the Council's Operative has been fully employed and in the course of his duties has actually recovered 1,206 dead rats, a figure which according to statistics published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pest Control Division, would represent about one-third of the actual kill.

Wasp's nests successfully dealt with numbered 75, and one hornet's nest.

The arrangement with Watchet U.D.C., continues.

Treatments and inspections are as follows :-

	<u>Non-Agricultural. Agricultural.</u>	
<u>Notifications</u>	196	24
<u>Routine Inspections</u>	577	187
<u>Infested Properties</u>	Rats 190	16
<u>Treated</u>	Mice 18	2

There are seven Contracts in operation, six agricultural and one other.

Section H.

Housing Acts, 1936-1954, & Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Inspections	...	...	464
Informal Notices served	...	...	15
Statutory Notices served	...	...	5

Public Health Acts.

Inspections.

Drainage & Sewerage	...	...	170
Water Supplies	...	...	89
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	261
Camping & Caravans	...	...	126
Nuisances	...	...	73
Public Conveniences	...	...	3
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	6
Persons in need of Care and Attention	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	14
Informal Notices served	...	...	21

Food & Drugs Act.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Inspections.

Food & Catering Premises	55
Slaughterhouses	...	...	6
Knackers Yards	...	...	60
Unsound Food	...	...	1
Informal Notices served	...	...	6
Statutory Notices served	3
	11

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

Inspections.

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Litter Act, 1958.

Inspections.

	7
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Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

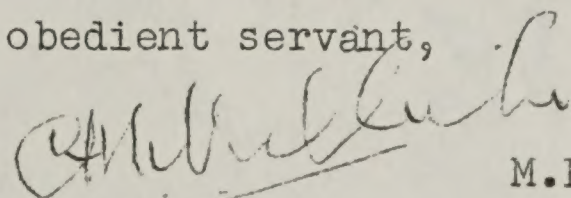
Inspections.

Statutory Notices served	40
	...	...	30

Once again I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



M.B. Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

Treatments and inspections are as follows :-

Non-Agricultural. Agricultural.

24	106	Mortifications	
187	377	Routine Inspections	
16	190	Rate	Inspected Properties
2	18		

There are seven contracts in operation, six agricultural and one other.

Section H.
Housing Acts, 1936-1937, & Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1936.

404	...	...	Inspections
15	...	...	Informal Notices served
7	...	...	Statutory Notices served
			Public Health Acts.
			Inspections.
170	...	...	Drainage & Sewerage
89	...	...	Water Supplies
261	...	...	Refuse Collection & Disposal
126	...	...	Cleaning & Carting
73	...	...	Miscellaneous
3	...	...	Public Conveniences
8	...	...	Filth or Verminous Premises
2	...	...	Persons in need of Care and Attention
20	...	...	Infectious Diseases
14	...	...	Miscellaneous
21	...	...	Informal Notices served
			Food & Drugs Act.
			Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.
22	...	...	Inspections.
6	...	...	Food & Catering Premises
60	...	...	Slaughterhouses
1	...	...	Kitchen Yards
6	...	...	Unsound Food
3	...	...	Informal Notices served
11	...	...	Statutory Notices served
			Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1927.
4	...	...	Inspections.
			Litter Act, 1925.
7	...	...	Inspections.
			Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1927.
140	...	...	Inspections.
30	...	...	Statutory Notices served

Once again I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. L. L.

M.B. Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health